

Minutes

Professional Athletics Program

Boxing, Martial Arts, and Wrestling Public Meeting

Sept. 3, 2009

Tacoma, Washington

3:00 – 7:00 pm

Facilitators: Linda Crerar, Carol Knight-Wallace

Attendees:

- **Industry Representatives:** David Brown, Paul Field, Dennis Hallman, Glen Hamada, Aric Wiseman, Terry Boehlke, Mickey Brasher, Jeff Bourgeois, Brian Halquist, Bill Hunt, Tad Bremer
- **Department Representatives:** Trudie Touchette, Susan Colard, George Dodd

Meeting Purpose:

Develop ideas for creating a self-supporting program.

Objectives:

Review preliminary recommendations.

Introductions:

Tad Bremer and Bill Hunt were a new participants and David Brown participated on the phone.

DOL Briefing

Key points and observations from other states' practices, Pay Per View, and Pro-Am research – George Dodd.

- High number of events in some states
- 5% fee
- \$1800 event fee for promoter, plus 5% fee
- \$2.00 charge per ticket
- Minimum charge of \$150 per event
- Pay per view fee
- Some states allow pro-am events and charge a fee on total gate
- Ohio is somewhat similar to WA, in the number of events held if not counting MMA and Pro-Am events

Group Discussions

- One participant wanted to get the state involved in amateur MMA due to the risk to athletes and money involved.
- Boxing is not making money.
- Comment: “anything you do in this state as a job should be taxed.”

- The industry should run the industry.
- What happens if you take the Department out of the venue sites and make the promoter more responsible? Would FTE's be reduced?
- Commission would approve fights and train officials.
- There was also considerable discussion about the difference between an Advisory Board and a Commission. This was discussed in detail later in the meeting, resulting in a recommendation.
- Promoters should be responsible to assure fighters paperwork is completed and submitted.
- Promoters should meet timelines.

Preliminary Recommendations

The following recommendations were discussed and approved for further research by the group:

Develop an Ad Hoc/Advisory Committee to provide guidance and direction to the Department's Professional Athletics' Program. Its duties may include:

- Develop and implement a process for holding Pro-Am events
- Increase license fees
- Establish a Pay Per View
- Implement fee for Federal/National ID cards
- Department will continue to address process improvements and efficiencies to reduce costs
- Charge a fee for the approval of amateur sanctioning organizations not recognized in statute

Eliminations from list:

Improve Oversight of Closed Circuit Televised Events was eliminated from recommendations.

Action Items

- Research how other states operate under the Commission model. What are the responsibilities of Commissioners, volunteers, and state staff? What does it cost?
- The Department and Self-Sustainment Plan Working Group will discuss roles, responsibilities and functions of the Advisory Group.

Parking Lot

The "Parking Lot" has the following items:

- Brainstorming ideas may require rules or statute changes
- Look at issues related to RCW 67.08.015. Need clarity on amateurs
- Certification of Officials (there is some controversy over the DOL practice of rotating officials)
 - Cap the number?
 - Don't certify those not ready

- What are the requirements for certification?
- Regulate kick-boxing?
- Why don't we regulate amateur wrestling?
- Current reimbursement levels for officials needs to be reviewed – look at % of gate as modification to current pay schedule.

Sept. 10 Agenda

1. Complete discussion of items in “Needs Discussion”, “Eliminate”, and “Parking Lot.”
2. Review preliminary report draft
3. Discuss action items

Meeting closed at 7:00 p.m.